



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

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September 10, 2020

Mr. Gary Heidel  
Acting Executive Director  
Michigan State Housing Development Authority  
735 E. Michigan Avenue  
Lansing, Michigan 48912

Dear Mr. Heidel,

As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the population of Michigan. People experiencing homelessness are uniquely vulnerable to contracting COVID-19, and to experiencing harsher effects of the virus. That is why Congress included \$4 billion for Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program under the CARES Act.

Of the \$4 billion for ESG under the CARES Act, Michigan received \$17,313,093 in the first allocation on July 23, 2020 and \$22,253,746 on September 1, 2020 in the second allocation. However, I heard from Housing Resources, Inc. in Kalamazoo, that they have not received any of these much-needed ESG funds from Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA). In a recent news article Chief Housing Solutions Officer Kelly Rose said MSHDA "issued 32 grants so far this month and the remaining nine, that includes Kalamazoo, will be issued this week."<sup>1</sup> That article was published on August 17, 2020.

In addition, I learned that Michigan has yet to submit a plan for its regular ESG allocation for 2020, totaling \$5,188,213.

It is imperative that these ESG funds get out the door and into the hands of organizations that desperately need them as they seek to address the unique challenge of homelessness during this pandemic. I ask that you please expediate the release of these emergency ESG relief funds as well as submit a plan for the traditional ESG allocation for 2020.

Please provide our office with a response by September 18, 2020. Thank you in advance for considering this important and timely request.

Sincerely,

Fred Upton  
Member of Congress

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<sup>1</sup> Mukomel, L. (2020, August 17). W MI charities say more federal aid needed as pandemic continues. *Woodtv.com*. Retrieved September 10, 2020, from <https://www.woodtv.com/health/coronavirus/w-mi-charities-say-more-federal-aid-needed-as-pandemic-continues/>